

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/622,694
Amendment dated October 20, 2003
Reply to OA of **June 20, 2003**

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-32 are pending in the application. Claims 22 and 26-30 are allowed. Claim 16 is objected to. Claims 1 and 22 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention.

The support for the claim amendments is as follows: claim 1 (original claim 15 or p.23, lines 1-7) and claim 22 (formalities amendment).

The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 9, 11-15, 17-21, 23-25, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by **Kurfman** (U.S. Patent No. 4,612,216).

On p.5 of the office action, the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 22 and 26-30 is given in part as that the prior art cited does not recite a light guide containing an alicyclic structure having a glass transition temperature of at least 90C selected from the group consisting of a ring-opening polymer of a norbornene-based monomer, a ring-opening polymer hydrogenate of a norbornene-housed monomer, an addition polymer of a norbornene-based monomer, an addition polymer of a norbornene-based monomer and vinyl compound, and a vinyl alicyclic hydrocarbon polymer.

Claim 1 has been amended along the lines and thus claims 1-5 should be allowable.

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In independent claims 6 and 9, there is claimed an alicyclic structure in the reflector. None of the thermoplastics in col. 6, lines 1-22 of **Kurfman** includes an alicyclic structure. It is therefore impossible to **Kurfman** to anticipate. In light of the disclosure of p.23-24 of the specification describing the improvements due to the alicyclic structure and the complete lack of a suggestion of such improvements in **Kurfman**, it is also not logical that **Kurfman** can make obvious the claimed invention under 35 USC 103. Without any suggestion at all, of using an alicyclic structure in the thermoplastic in **Kurfman**, the skilled artisan would not consider the invention as now claimed obvious.

Furthermore, independent claims 19 - 21 also disclose a thermoplastic resin containing an alicyclic structure. However, without more, as explained above **Kurfman** cannot logically anticipate.

The Examiner has objected to claim 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. As base claim 1 is believed to be allowable, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of these claims are respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended,

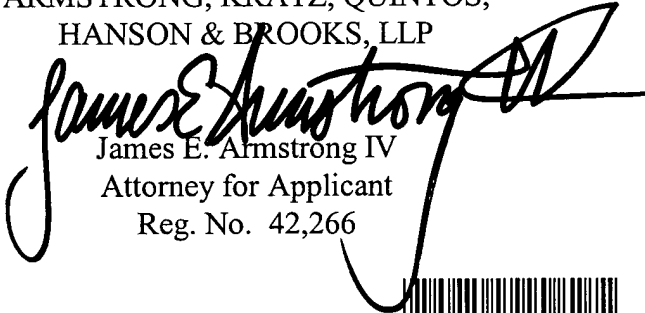
are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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